

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 /073 W  
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R 070725Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3312

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUANDA 0256

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: ROUND UP OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SUMMARY. CLOSER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COOPERATION BETWEEN FNLA AND UNITA HAS BEEN EVIDENCED IN RECENT DAYS. THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IS HAMSTRUNG BY ITS INABILITY TO MUSTER A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY ON IMPORTANT ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EVIDENCE OF CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN UNITA AND FNLA HAS RECENTLY MOUNTED. WITH ONLY ONE MINOR EXCEPTION (SEE BELOW) THE PUBLIC UTTERANCES AND COMMUNIQUEES OF THE TWO GROUPS HAVE SHOWN A REMARKABLE CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES. THEY ARE ATTRACTED BY THEIR MUTUAL DISLIKE FOR MPLA, AND THEIR COMMON GROUND IS GENERALLY FOUND IN OPPOSITION TO WHATEVER MPLA SUPPORTS. THIS HAS BEEN TRUE IN THE RUNNING FEUD OVER THE OFFICIAL RADIO, WHICH STILL TILTS NOTICEABLY TOWARD MPLA. UNITA HAS BEEN HAMMERING AT THIS PROBLEM FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN COMMUNIQUEES,  
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SPEECHES AND INTERVIEWS. FNLA HAS BEEN CONCENTRATING ITS

ATTACKS AGAINST THE "POPULAR POWER" MOVEMENT OF MPLA. BOTH PARTIES HAVE JOINTLY BLAMED MPLA FOR THE LABOR SITUATION IN ANGOLA'S MAJOR PORTS. IN OUR TALKS WITH OFFICIALS OF UNITA AND FNLA WE HAVE BEEN TOLD OF THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MOVEMENTS. A HIGH FNLA SOURCE TOLD A CONGEN OFFICER THAT UNITA AND FNLA HAVE AGREED ON A MILITARY PLAN TO MOP-UP MPLA IN A TWO-DAY ACTION, IF THEY ARE PUSHED TOO FAR.

3. THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED VOLUMINOUS MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE THE PORT CONGESTION IN LUANDA AND LOBITO. MOST WERE COSMETIC REFORMS OF WORKING CONDITIONS BUT TROOPS FROM THE NEWLY FORMED FORÇA INTEGRADA (FI) WILL BE POSTED TO THE PORT, UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE PORTUGUESE PORT CAPTAIN, TO ENCOURAGE THE WORKERS TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY. THE WORKERS PROTESTED THE DISPATCH OF THE TROOPS AND, AS YET, THE 196 MAN CONTINGENT HAS NOT APPEARED ON THE DOCKS. FNLA, FOR ONE, IS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THE MEASURE WILL PRODUCE THE NEEDED RESULTS AND FAVORS FIRING THE WORKERS EN MASSE AND BRINGING IN NEW LABORERS, PERHAPS THUS PROVIDING JOBS FOR RETURNING REFUGEES FROM ZAIRE. VISITS TO THE PORT BY CONGEN OFFICERS AND TALKS WITH SHIPPING AGENTS SHOW THAT THE ONE WEEK OLD DECREE HAS HAD NO NOTICEABLE EFFECT ON THE LOADING OR UNLOADING RATES.

4. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW, FNLA'S MEMBER OF THE COLEGIAL PRESIDENCY, JOHNNY EDUARDO, PLACED THE BLAME FOR THE INACTIVITY OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT ON THE CONSISTENT ABSTENTION FROM VOTING BY TWO PORTUGUESE MINISTERS. THIS WAS EXPANDED UPON BY EDUARDO'S AIDE IN A CONVERSATION WITH A CONGEN OFFICER. HE EXPLAINED THAT OF THE 22 VOTES IN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT (12 MINISTERS, 9 SECRETARIES OF STATE AND ONE VOTE FOR THE COLEGIAL PRESIDENCY), THE FNLA/UNITA COALITION COULD MUSTER ONLY 13 (SIX MINISTERS, SIX SECRETARIES AND THE COLEGIAL PRESIDENCY) WHEN 14 WERE NEEDED FOR A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY. ONE PORTUGUESE MINISTER CONSISTENTLY VOTED FOR MPLA AND THE OTHER TWO REGULARLY ABSTAINED. UNLESS AT LEAST ONE PORTUGUESE COULD BE ENLISTED TO VOTE WITH FNLA/UNITA, MPLA IN EFFECT WOULD HOLD A VETO OVER ALL ACTIONS OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. THIS, EXPLAINED EDUARDO'S AIDE, WAS THE REASON WHY SO FEW DECISIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED SO FAR. EDUARDO STATED HE WOULD RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND EXPLAIN TO HIM THE NEED TO REQUIRE A VOTE

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BY THE PORTUGUESE MINISTERS.

5. THE ONE BREAK IN THE OTHERWISE SOLID UNITA/FNLA FRONT CAME IN BENGUELA AS A RESULT OF THE TAKE-OVER OF THE PRIVATELY OWNED LOCAL RADIO CLUB BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THREE LIBERATION GROUPS, PRESUMABLY DONE ON LOCAL INITIATIVE. UNITA'S HEADQUARTERS LATER COUNTERMANDED ITS LOCAL CHIEF AND UNITA PULLED OUT OF THE OCCUPATION, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE THE ACTION WAS AN

ILLEGAL SEIZURE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY. THIS LEFT FNLA AND MPLA  
AS STRANGE BEDFELLOWS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUANDA 0256

6. THERE HAVE BEEN SCATTERED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE IN THE  
INTERIOR. IN QUIMBELE, 200 KM NORTHEAST OF CARMONA, A HAND  
GRENADE WAS TOSSED INTO A UNITA POLITICAL RALLY, CONDUCTED  
UNDER THE PROTECTION OF FNLA TROOPS. FOURTEEN PEOPLE WERE  
WOUNDED, INCLUDING TWO FNLA SOLDIERS. FNLA THEN APPARENTLY LOST  
CONTROL OF ITS TROOPS, WHO TERRORIZED THE TOWN AND ITS  
INHABITANTS FOR TWO DAYS BEFORE ORDER WAS RESTORED. FNLA  
PUBLISHED A COMMUNIQUE, APPEALING TO THE CITIZENS OF QUIMBELE  
TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND ASSURING THEM ORDER WAS RESTORED.  
IN SALAZAR, NOW CALLED DALATANDO, MPLA TROOPS OPEN FIRE ON THE  
FNLA DELEGATION, IN AN ATTEMPT TO FREE AN MPLA LEADER BEING HELD  
THERE. TWO BYSTANDERS WERE KILLED. TRAFFIC THROUGH THE TOWN WAS  
CUT FOR SEVERAL HOURS UNTIL THE PORTUGUESE ARMY MEDIATED THE  
DISPUTE AND FREED THE MPLA LEADER.

7. THE BAD BLOOD BETWEEN UNITA AND MPLA WAS INCREASED AS THE  
RESULT OF DELIBERATE HARRASMENT OF UNITA'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND,  
N'ZAU PUNA, AT A ROADBLOCK IN CABINDA. PUNA, A CABINDAN,

TRAVELING WITH AN ARMED UNITA ESCORT, WAS STOPPED WHILE RE-ENTERING  
CABINDA CITY BY SOME OVERZEALOUS MPLA TROOPS WHO ASSERTED  
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HE HAD FORCED HIS WAY THROUGH THE ROADBLOCK AS HE LEFT THE CITY  
EARLIER THAT DAY. HE WAS FORCED OUT OF HIS VEHICLE AND TOLD TO  
REPORT TO THE POLITICAL COMMISSAR TO CLEAR UP THE PROBLEM. HE  
REFUSED TO GO AND THE MPLA COMMISSAR REFUSED TO COME TO HIM. AFTER  
A LONG WAIT AND A THREAT TO USE FORCE BY PUNA HE WAS PERMITTED TO  
PASS. PUNA PUBLICLY ASSAILED MPLA FOR THIS INCIDENT.

8. MPLA IS MORE FREQUENTLY FINDING ITSELF ISOLATED ON MANY ISSUES.  
NETO HAS BEEN ONLY MODERATELY ACTIVE IN POLITICKING SINCE HIS  
RETURN A MONTH AGO AND HAS NOT IGNITED ANY GREAT PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM.  
SEVERAL VARIED SOURCES, INCLUDING ONE DISGRUNTLED LONG-TIME MPLA  
SUPPORTER, HAVE TOLD US MPLA IS GRADUALLY LOSING POPULAR SUPPORT  
IN LUANDA. THE MOST OFTEN STATED REASON FOR THIS IS MPLA BACKING  
FOR THE STRIKES AND NETO'S LISTLESS PUBLIC STYLE. UNITA SEEMS TO  
BE GAINING STRENGTH, WITH LONG LINES OF PEOPLE AT ITS LUANDA  
HEADQUARTERS WAITING TO ENROLL. (A CONGEN OFFICER WHO SAW THE  
LINES SAYS 10 PERCENT OF THOSE WAITING WERE WHITES.) FNLA CONTINUES  
TO TALK TOUGH BUT PULLS ITS PUNCHES.  
KILLORAN

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